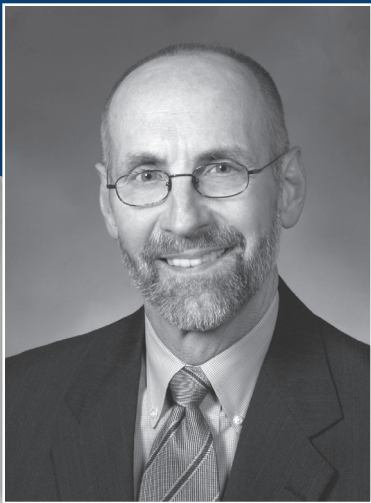


## Rep. Larry Springer



### Majority Caucus Liaison

**Committees:** Local Government & Housing, Finance, Transportation, Rules

### Olympia office:

132E Legislative Bldg.  
PO Box 40600 / Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
(360) 786-7822  
Springer.Larry@leg.wa.gov

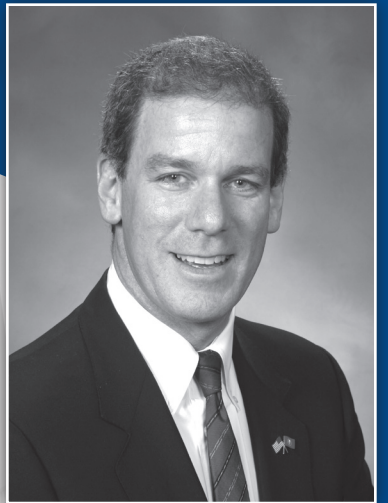
### District office:

615 Market St., Suite B  
Kirkland, WA 98033  
(425) 739-1806

### Legislative Assistant:

Kelly Rider  
Rider.Kelly@leg.wa.gov

## Rep. Roger Goodman



### Committees: Judiciary, Vice Chair,

Early Learning & Children's Services,  
Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness

### Olympia office:

320 John L. O'Brien Building  
PO Box 40600 / Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
(360) 786-7878  
Goodman.Roger@leg.wa.gov

### District office:

615 Market St., Suite B  
Kirkland, WA 98033  
(425) 739-1810

### Legislative Assistant:

Maxima Patashnik  
Patashnik.Maxima@leg.wa.gov

# Toll-free Legislative Hotline 800-562-6000

TDD (800) 635-9993

STATE REPRESENTATIVES  
**Larry Springer &  
Roger Goodman**

PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504

## Report from the 45th District

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# Report from the 45th District

**Rep. Larry  
Springer**

**Rep. Roger  
Goodman**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We hope this newsletter finds you and your family well, and we wish you a healthy, prosperous 2010.

While our state of Washington is still climbing out of the global economic ditch, we believe our best days are ahead of us. This state has a proud history of standing tall during the darkest hours, and we'll make it through this tough time by working together.

Our state faces tough problems, including a \$2.6 billion budget shortfall. And although this session will undoubtedly present new challenges, we will work together to pass a balanced budget while keeping our families employed and providing a top notch education for our children.

Fixing transportation, cracking down on crime and strengthening public safety, are also big concerns. Inside this newsletter, we'll talk about those and other issues.

There isn't enough space here to drill down on every topic. If you have a question about any issue, please call our district office and we'll try to find the answer for you.

We hope that you find this newsletter informative. Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your representatives.

Larry and Roger





# Rep. Larry Springer

## Budget crisis

When I left Olympia last year we had a balanced budget. However, I also left with the understanding that our journey on the road to recovery was not over. Due to the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, we have endured major cuts in our schools, senior care and mental health facilities, prisons and additional important services. This session we are faced with an additional \$2.6 billion budget hole, which creates one of the greatest challenges in decades for elected officials in Olympia. Any incoming revenue has already been stretched thin, and we continue to feel the impact of the global economic downturn. Consumer confidence is still low, resulting in less sales tax revenue. Additional cuts are nearly inevitable, but I will continue to work toward preparing our students for tomorrow's workforce and taking care of our families while promoting efficiency and cost-effective practices whenever possible.



## Better schools

Preparing for tomorrow means planning today. We must plan today to create schools that will give our children a chance at winning the global race for the best jobs of tomorrow. That's why I supported legislation last year that outlines comprehensive education reform. Our school funding formulas expire in September of 2011, creating the opportunity to adopt a more effective and efficient approach to funding education in Washington. Education reform opens the door to all-day kindergarten, lower class sizes, teacher development and more. These are all steps toward providing our children with a top-notch education.



As we endure one of the steepest economic downturns in decades, we continue to search for a way to fund education reform. We cannot afford to ignore the needs of our students—therefore, we cannot ignore the need for education reform. Washington state is like a growing family. We're educating more children every year so establishing better schools tomorrow requires careful and creative planning today.

## Homeowner protection

One of the most important investments for a family in Washington is their home. However, that dream home isn't always the quality home we deserve. Over the last three years I've sifted through legislation, led a six-month workgroup and witnessed hours of testimony regarding shoddy construction practices in our state and the need for additional consumer protection. That's why I introduced legislation last session to strengthen protection for homebuyers. The bill came to a halt in the Senate, but I plan to continue working on similar legislation this year. We must ensure that construction workers are properly trained prior to building, as well as provide homebuyers with legal remedies if a contractor fails or refuses to fix a construction defect. This will raise the bar for accountability and consumer protection while offering additional resources such as a primary point of contact for homebuyers on home construction issues. Washington law currently provides almost no protection for new homebuyers. It's time that building a home carries just as much responsibility as buying one.

## State Route 520 Bridge

Built in the 1960's, the State Route 520 floating bridge carries more than twice the amount of vehicles than originally intended and is also vulnerable to failure in severe windstorms and earthquakes. This east-west connection provides a link across Lake Washington for more than 155,000 people every day, which is exactly why we are taking the necessary precautions to ensure that the structure is safe and can accommodate increased demand in the future. The new bridge will have six lanes, which include two outer general purpose lanes and one inside HOV lane in each direction. As for funding, legislation was passed last session to impose tolls sufficient to finance bonds to replace the floating bridge. This includes construction of the pontoon site and pontoon construction in Grays Harbor County. As a member of the House Transportation Committee and an appointed member of the State Route 520 Work Group, I've taken part in identifying the most cost-effective route to replacing the bridge while remaining on schedule for its completion in 2014.



# Rep. Roger Goodman

## Public safety

### Officers shot

The recent horrific shootings of our law enforcement officers has hit us hard. I think especially of how the officers' families and communities have to suffer this tragedy. We held a hearing to investigate problems in keeping dangerous offenders locked up, including the practice in Pierce County of letting people get out of jail by posting bond without even going before a judge.

### Our two biggest problems

When I first got elected to the House, I asked the experts, what were the top problems in public safety? The told me if you looked at the numbers, the two areas that caused the most harm are drunk driving and domestic violence. So I've made it my mission to focus on those two issues to make things safer for all of our families.

### Drunk driving

You are three times more likely to get maimed or killed by a drunk driver than at the hands of violent criminals. The good news is that while murderers are hard to predict and prevent, we are getting better and better at stopping drunks from getting behind the wheel and hurting people. We worked with police and prosecutors to crack down on social drinkers, the average person who might have a few too many beers at a barbeque at their neighbors and drive home. Today, most people are very good about watching how much they drink -- or having a designated driver. The real trouble today is with chronic drunks. Police have already arrested them time after time. Judges have taken away their license and thrown them in jail. But they keep driving. We've been working on legislation to tackle chronic drunks and get them off the road. This session, I'll keep pushing reforms, including ignition interlocks for repeat offenders.



### Domestic violence

I've been given the task of taking a hard look at our domestic violence laws, so I worked with prosecutors, victim advocates and police on comprehensive reforms to our laws. This issue is important because it affects so many families. It's also tricky, because you want to be tough on those who batter or abuse their family members, but also focus on preventing small problems from escalating into serious violence. We can, and will, do a better job of prevention and working with families to stop problems and conflicts from becoming violent.

## Early learning

As the father of two young children, I understand the passion that every parent has for getting the best possible education for their sons and daughters. As a lawmaker, I know one thing: there is no better investment of our tax dollars than early learning. Research shows us that every dollar we put into early learning programs like Head Start give us seven dollars in returns. The children in these programs get a solid foundation that lets them succeed in school and life. This is important because if we care about the achievement gap, we must deal with the preparation gap. It's too late to start dealing with it in high school or junior high or even elementary school. On the first day of kindergarten, a significant percentage of kids are already behind. The first day. And statistically, they are unlikely to ever catch up. Many drop out of high school. If we want to do something about failing schools and crime, the best place to spend our money is in early learning. The other day, I visited the ReadyStart preschool at Norman Rockwell Elementary, and I spent time playing with that roomful of kids. It was fun playing with trains and talking to them -- and it was inspiring to see teachers and parents working with these kids and knowing they were making a real difference. I care about early learning because it's about making sure every child -- rich or poor, black or white, Hispanic or Asian -- has a great education and a shot at the American Dream.



## Better government

With the bad economy and another round of budget cuts, it's more important than ever to stretch every taxpayer dime. There are always things that we can do better, faster and cheaper. I've been working with other lawmakers on ways to do more with less. Since the birth of democracy, paper has been king. While our state has won national awards for digital services, we have only begun to nibble at what truly is possible on the web. Performance audits are also a new innovation. Instead of simply looking at whether a state agency is following the law and keeping its books in order, today we are insisting upon looking at how well they perform their mission of serving citizens. Is the job getting done? We can do more. It's better, faster and cheaper to let citizens find information, pay for licenses and get what they need online than by driving to an office and standing in line. It's smarter for the state to eliminate more boards and commissions, as Gov. Chris Gregoire has proposed, and to consolidate services. There's no reason why some state agencies should have their own separate motor pool, for example. Many of these ideas came from citizens or state workers. If you have an idea to save money or serve citizens better, please call my office or send an e-mail.



Rep. Larry Springer  
Rep. Roger Goodman

# Report from the 45<sup>th</sup> District